

committee, that would be greatly appreciated.

Medicare prescription drugs, Mr. Leader, what can you tell us about when we can expect to see Medicare prescription drug legislation considered in the committees of jurisdiction and then on the floor?

Mr. DELAY. As previously announced, we had tried to get Medicare modernization onto the floor before the Memorial Day break. Obviously, there was a tremendous amount of work that needed to be done, and we had to postpone that goal. We have set a new goal, and we hope that we can have Medicare modernization to the floor before the July 4 break. The Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Energy and Commerce are working hard to develop a proposal that would modernize and preserve the Medicare program and provide needy citizens with life-saving drugs. But while the complexity of this issue means that our staffs and committees need to be working and they are working very hard, we still hope to have a bill for the House to consider before the end of the month.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that information.

Lastly, I would ask the gentleman, I have served on the Committee on Appropriations for many years. We have not marked up yet, as the gentleman knows, any bills in subcommittee nor, obviously, in full committee at this point in time. In fact, we have not been given 302(b) allocation, as the leader knows. Would the leader be able to tell us what schedule he now foresees for appropriations bills and when we might do the 302(b) allocations?

Mr. DELAY. The gentleman is absolutely correct. We are way behind in our appropriations process. I am very concerned about that. We had hoped that this year that the House and the Senate could work out an agreement of allocation so that we could work together more smoothly than we have in the past as two bodies. We are still hopeful that we can get that kind of an agreement. But I anticipate the mark-ups in the subcommittee to begin, and I am very hopeful they can start beginning next week. But it is still probably a little too early to tell.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Reclaiming my time, obviously, last year the discussion was the failure to pass a budget undermined the appropriations process. Of course, we have passed a budget, I would say somewhat facetiously. That probably undermines the appropriations process as well, but, nevertheless, we are behind, as the gentleman indicates. We are concerned that we get so far behind that we are unable to pass appropriations bills by the end of the fiscal year, and I am pleased to hear that perhaps we are moving ahead to start giving the allocation for the subcommittees and having mark-ups perhaps as soon as next week. I thank the gentleman for the information.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE TO HAVE UNTIL MIDNIGHT, FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 2003 TO FILE REPORT ON H.R. 2115, FLIGHT 100—CENTURY OF AVIATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure have until midnight, Friday, June 6, 2003 to file a report to accompany the bill H.R. 2115, to reauthorize funds for the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2003

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

HOOR OF MEETING ON TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2003

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Monday, June 9, 2003, it adjourn to meet at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 10, for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

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REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 669

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 669.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alabama?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 1-minute requests.

MAJORITY DID NOT DO ITS JOB

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would argue that after today's work it is imperative that we put on the floor of the House a relief to many of the children of America, millions in fact.

We did not do our job. This House, the majority, did not do its job. The Senate, the majority, did not do its job by eliminating a tax credit benefit from 6.5 million families, 12 million children. We need to restore the \$400 tax credit that will be given to those families.

Right now we have a study that says military kids are slighted on tax credits. That means the young men and women, the young families in the United States military, their income does not allow them to get a tax credit for the children that they have. Blessed are the poor, they do not get tax cuts.

They do pay taxes. They pay sales tax, payroll taxes. They pay property taxes. It is imperative to pass H.R. 2286, and Mr. Speaker, as an original cosponsor I would ask that the Rangel-DeLauro bill be put on the floor of the House next week to match the Senate bill so we can restore the \$400 to these families 6.5 million, 12 million children, what a shame.

We do not need to wait for months for tax bills to come. We need to fix our error now and help the working families of America.

VETERANS HEALTHCARE ACCESS STANDARDS ACT OF 2003

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Veterans Health Care Access Standards Act of 2003. This bill would establish standards of access to care for veterans who utilize the VA health care system. If enacted the bill would codify the Department's current standard of access to care and would actually require the VA to use alternative community health care resources if the VA is unable to meet their own standard.

In my home State of Florida, there is a backlog of more than 24,000 veterans seeking VA medical care. In my District alone, there are 2,727 veterans waiting for an appointment and another 2,000 who have an appointment but the schedule time is more than 6 months away.

The Department's established access standard for outpatient care is to provide veterans seeking primary care with appointments within 30 days of making the request for such an appointment. However, it is clear to any Member of Congress that has toured